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Wikis

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- [ISTE Online Learning Award 2007](#)
- [Horizon Project](#)
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- [Class Wiki](#)
- [Digiteen Project](#)

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Cool Cat Teacher Public Calendar

Today: ◀ ▶ **Wednesday, November 12**

Wednesday, November 12

8:00pm [WEMTA \(Wisconsin Education\)](#)

Thursday, November 20

[Illinois Education and Technology Confe](#)

9:30am [IETC Breakout Session Plaza](#)

12:25pm [IETC Keynote](#)

1:20pm [IETC Breakout in Plaza F](#)

Showing events until 1/15.
[Look for more](#)

Events shown in time zone:
 Eastern Time

Where I share

Cool Cat Teacher

- [Digg/coolcatteacher](#)
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- [Facebook/Cool Cat Teacher](#)
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- [LinkedIn/coolcatteacher](#)
- [Twitter/coolcatteacher](#)
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- [Del.icio.us/brightideasguru](#)
- [Wikipedia/brightideasguru](#)
- [coComment/coolcatteacher](#)
- [Upcoming/Cool Cat Teacher](#)
- [Technorati/brightideasguru](#)
- [Blog/Cool Cat Teacher](#)

How the Flat Classroom Project Almost Died Yesterday!

Thursday, November 01, 2007

Besides the obvious influence over the minds of tomorrow, teachers have more influence now than in the history of mankind.

Yesterday is just a case in point.

Meet the Student Lounge for Flat Classroom

Our [Flat Classroom Project Ning](#) is where we connect. **We wanted to move the conversations out of the student's personal e-mail accounts** (where they cannot be monitored and advised) into a public area.

Ning is perfect, because it e-mails the student when messages are left on their page or discussions. It also gives us an RSS feed and a great environment in which to work and monitor things.

(When you do a cross cultural project, you are guaranteed to have cross cultural misunderstanding. You must watch for it and mentor it.)

We love the Ning for that.

Meet Google AdSense

So, when our free site which is supported by [Google AdSense](#), used its keyword matcher and our students started talking about "social lives in social networking" and the changing aspects of life in a globally connected world, the words "boyfriend," "girlfriend," "dating," "love," and "hate" and all such connected words were spidered, and the fact that some students are from Qatar, we started seeing ads like this come up:

ober 31st, 2007 at 7:35pm — [No Comments \(Add\)](#)

my daily life comes in contact with with the whether we live in a country that jobs are being that is doing the outsourcing, we are all directly r example, American companies often do much ring here in China. Most prospective outsourcing ow costing and large labor demand. A lot of what tsourcing encompass...

tober 28th, 2007 at 4:22pm — [3 Comments \(Add\)](#)

et Keynote Address 2007 Released!

announce the release of the 2007 keynote som Project by Dean Shareski called "Design he [keynote.wiki page](#) and from this Ning here

make the topic of design and creativity alive for in your classrooms to watch the 12 minute

Date Beautiful Women

Sexy women Qatar Bahrain Oman Photos, chat, email. Join free now.

[www.Arab4U.com.net](#)

Needless to say, it was a deal breaker!

This one ad was enough to derail everything we had worked for...

Search

- Web
- This Blog
- Cool Cat Teacher Wiki

You Speak Out!

I am migrating to [Disqus](#), but do not want blogger commenters left out!

Disqus Comments

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

Recent Comments

- [suzieboss](#) Hi Vicki, Thanks for continuing this conversation (and for your kind words). When it comes to YouTube, I think the potential goes beyond a teacher being able to download and show content. (That's...

[Cool Cat Teacher Blog: Can't Educators BE the Net? Safety Net, that is.](#) · 14 hours ago

- [coolcatteacher](#) Yes, download helper and others let you download, but for me, I allow students to embed video in blog posts - so it is not just about showing video from youtube but using youtube as a tool in the...

[Cool Cat Teacher Blog: Can't Educators BE the Net? Safety Net, that is.](#) · 17 hours ago




- [coolcatteacher](#) YES - it would be easy and it makes a lot of sense. I think the lawyers are scared if they attempt to do anything that it won't be enough.

[Cool Cat Teacher Blog: Can't Educators BE the Net? Safety Net, that is.](#) · 17 hours ago

- [Steve Ransom](#) A fairly simple solution to YouTube in the classroom as far as showing content TO students is to use some free software, such as Tooble, to download the videos from home and bring them in to...

[Cool Cat Teacher Blog: Can't Educators BE the Net? Safety Net, that is.](#) · 18 hours ago

- [Michael Walekr](#) Vicki, I agree that it would be awesome for youtube to create an education safe

 [Blippr/coolcatteacher](#)
 [Ustream/Coolcat Teacher](#)
 [Personal Wiki/](#)
 [Flat Classroom/](#)
 [Digiteen Project/](#)
 [Horizon Project/](#)

Get your own Widget

cyberbullying
hurts

Join the [Stop Cyberbullying](#) network.

Thank you Elluminate!

Real-time collaboration
Get your FREE 3-user
Elluminate vRoom



Elluminate is a community partner for the [Flat Classroom Project](#) and [The Horizon Project](#)

Blogroll

My "education" Blogroll

[2 Cents Worth](#)
[A Difference](#)
[Abject Learning](#)
[AFI Screen Education](#)
[Alan November Weblog](#)
[Amy Loves Books](#)
[Bit By Bit](#)
[Blue Skunk Blog](#)
[Bud the Teacher](#)
[Christopher D. Sessums : Weblog](#)
[Computer Science Teacher](#)
[Connecting the Dots](#)
[Dangerously Irrelevant](#)
[dose](#)
[Drape's Takes](#)
[Drexel CoAS E-Learning](#)
[E-Learning Journeys](#)
[E-Portfolios for Learning](#)
[EdCompBlog](#)
[EdTechUK](#)
[EduBlog Insights](#)
[edublogs](#)
[Education/Technology - Tim Lauer](#)
[Edutopia](#)
[eLearning Technology](#)
[elearningpost](#)
[EPGAGA](#)
[Fortnightly Mailing](#)
[Free Range Librarian](#)
[Helcat Rants and Ramblings](#)
[information aesthetics](#)
[Karyn's blog](#)
[Kate Says](#)
[Left Lane Ends](#)

hundreds of hours.

And lifetimes of progress.

We have students connecting who have rarely worked together before... **US public and private schools, Australia, Austria, China, Qatar...and even more religious persuasions and ethic backgrounds.** (We're not really a melting pot but more like a stew!!!)

And we need to go further and pull in schools in Africa, South America and beyond.

We're now discussing how we bring students in when they don't have access to technology....

but it all almost evaporated.

It was all almost gone.

(Note to educators with blogs: this is precisely why I have never Google AdSense'd my blog. Like most teachers, I'm perpetually short of cash most of the time however, if I believe in what I do, how can I sacrifice my reputation and who I am b/c an add went up on my page that I am against? "A good name is to be desired above great riches." I have that beside my bed, it is what I look at first thing in the morning. How can I leave that behind?)

Death of a Dream

See, companies like [Wikispaces](#), "get" education. They understand that advertising inappropriate things on a school website (eg. you're teaching **how to do essays** and an ad pops up trying to **get students to buy an essay online** or worse, **it starts soliciting for porn**) are enough excuse for those who are against these new technologies to kill the Web 2.0 Baby.

Companies who understand education know that the students will be creating their own spaces now or later and that they will benefit. We either need ad free spaces to use for schools or those that are G rated ads. (Ideally, ad free.)

Oh, the walled garden people are going to say,

"Yes! Walled Garden! Walled Garden!"

I say to them,

"Raise a bubble boy for 18 years and take him to the mall... he won't live a week!"

Bubbles aren't the answer and neither are walls. By the time they are in high school, they should be operating in spaces that are public as well as private areas and should know and understand the difference and that privacy anywhere on the Internet is an illusion.

Bionic Problem solving

Bionic - "a living creature that is enhanced by electronic or electromechanical devices."

So, Julie saw it, twittered it, and contacted me and also our friend [Steve Hargadon](#) who has been a great advocate for

area that students and teachers could access, but I would take it a step further. What if Google made all of their...

[Cool Cat Teacher Blog: Can't Educators BE the Net? Safety Net, that is.](#) · 20 hours ago

community on **DISQUS**

Blogger Comments

-  [Suzie Vesper](#) // 11/01/2007 5:40 PM
-  [profv](#) // 11/01/2007 7:12 PM
-  [John Pederson](#) // 11/01/2007 9:56 PM
-  [Downes](#) // 11/02/2007 8:03 AM
-  [Heather Ross](#) // 11/02/2007 2:21 PM
-  [SeanN.](#) // 7/03/2008 8:45 AM

Recent Posts

- [Dean Shareski Teaches us How to Use Green Screen](#)
- [7 Steps to a Flat Classroom](#)
- [My Favorite Wow2: Ewan McIntosh and David Jakes](#)
- [Dean Shareski's Flat Classroom Keynote and an Upda...](#)
- [Playground Pain Limits Classroom Gain](#)
- [My Opinions on Curriculum](#)
- [Google Maps tracking California Fires](#)
- [Wikinomics: Let your Students Talk to Don Tapscot...](#)
- [The Powerful, Rich efolio experience](#)
- [If my friend Scott, a double amputee can run an ir...](#)

Most Valuable Posts

- [10 Habits of Bloggers that Win](#)
- [The Frontier of Education: Web 3D](#)
- [11 steps to online supervision of your child](#)
- [Wiki Wiki Teaching](#)
- [How to Comment](#)
- [Spies Like Us](#)
- [What's Wrong with DOPA](#)
- [How I use wikis](#)
- [Tech helps for LD](#)
- [Blazing lonely and unpopular trails?](#)
- [Bobblehead or bumblebee?](#)
- [The Power of a Newbie](#)

Archives

- [December 2005](#)
- [January 2006](#)
- [February 2006](#)
- [March 2006](#)
- [April 2006](#)
- [May 2006](#)
- [June 2006](#)
- [July 2006](#)
- [August 2006](#)
- [September 2006](#)
- [October 2006](#)
- [November 2006](#)
- [December 2006](#)
- [January 2007](#)
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- [January 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
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- [May 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [July 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)

My Podcast

These are Vicki's phone calls to educators, from her cell phone and sent automatically to her [Gcast podcast channel](#).

[Lessig Blog](#)
[Making Change](#)
[Musings - Just Learning](#)
[Nexus](#)
[pedersonsdesigns](#)
[Reflection 2.0](#)
[Shifted Learning: 2006 Online K12 Edublogger Conference](#)
[Sliced Bread](#)
[Stephen's Web ~ by Stephen Downes ~ OLDaily RSS 2.0](#)
[Students 2.0](#)
[Teach and Learn Online](#)
[TechLEARNing.com](#)
[The 21st Century Centurion](#)
[The Adventures of Johnny Bunko](#)
[The Bass Players Blog](#)
[The Edublogger](#)
[The Edublogs Magazine](#)
[The Open Classroom](#)
[The Sandbox](#)
[The Shifted Librarian](#)
[The Strength of Weak Ties](#)
[The Tech Trainer](#)
[The Thinking Stick](#)
[Think Like a Teacher](#)
[Thinking About Learning](#)
[Thoughts from a Technospud](#)
[Thumann Resources](#)
[TLC = Tech + Library + Classroom](#)
[Weblogg-ed News: The Read/Write Web in the Classroom](#)
[Workshops on Teaching with Technology](#)

[Read more...](#)

Recent Bookmarks

my recent bookmarks

• [A Doctor, a Mutation and a Potential Cure for AIDS - WSJ.com](#)
 Fascinating article!! Annotated link <http://www.diigo.com/bookmark/http%3A%2F%2Fonline.wsj.com%2Farticle%2FSB1200239411591755.html>
 • [copyrightconfusion > home](#)
 Fair Use Best Practices are being redefined today, November 11th.
 • [New guidelines for Fair Use! - Home - Doug Johnson's Blue Skunk Blog](#)
 HUGELY important post from Doug Johnson - Fair use seems to have just become easier and a whole lot more comprehensive than many of us thought! OH YES!! (although in the back of my mind, I wonder if it could truly be this easy!)
 • [Google Signs a Deal to e-Publish Out-of-Print Books - NYTimes.com](#)
 The largest bookshop in the world is Now..... drum roll please... you guessed it --- GOOGLE! Who has a license to print copyrighted books that are no longer in print. Only open in the US for now. This is an important article from the NY Times for those involved in authoring and publishing books. Stay tuned. Annotated link <http://www.diigo.com/bookmark/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2008%2F11%2F10%2FBusiness%2Fworldbusiness%2F10kindle.html>
 • [Windows Privacy: Windows 7's New Geolocation Service Introduces Privacy Problems](#)
 According to this story: "Windows 7 has a new system-wide service that will offer very easily accessible geographical location services for all devices and programs. Unfortunately, their implementation seems half-baked in the security front, opening the door to privacy problems that even Microsoft program manager Alec Berntson didn't have a convincing answer for. What is worse: They don't plan to fix them for the final release." Geolocation services

[educational uses of Ning](#) (and has been consulting with them for a while.)

Although the \$19.95 seems like a pittance, who would fund this site into perpetuity? And when whoever paid pulled the plug, then what would be lost? Amazing discussions and resources that we all need to access!

So, after twittering, e-mailing, Im'ing and several various forms of communication, Ning's [Gina Bianchini](#) and [Athena Von Oech](#) got involved.

This was huge...to us anyway.

To have this Web 2.0-enabled [Flat Classroom](#) baby killed in infancy was more than any of us could stand.

There was a moment when we sat on the brink and I wondered, will Ning respond? Will they show themselves to be a business that understands these things or will they take the hard line? (Which as a business woman who has been in the corporate world, I can certainly understand.) Am I going to have to pay for this myself every month forever?

I won't go over the content of our discussions but let's say we had a passionate talk about what educators need... and with Steve's advocacy, the following announcement came out today:

Free Ad-Free Social Networks on Nings for Educators

Steve posted on his blog:

"Yesterday, in a flurry of email exchanges, Ning's [Gina Bianchini](#) and [Athena Von Oech](#), Flat Classroom superstars [Vicki Davis](#) and [Julie Lindsay](#), and I worked out the details of a trial program to remove the ad component from any existing or newly-created K-12 student-centered networks. If we can show them ad-free networks are something educators really want (that won't be hard!), they will continue the program and create a more automated, stream-lined process--but in the meantime, here is what you can do:

1. Create your student network, if you don't already have one
2. Go to http://help.ning.com/?page_id=27
3. Use the subject line: "Ad Removal Request for K-12 Education Site"
4. Put in your network ID at the beginning of the "Describe your issue" box, then just give a one-sentence description of your network usage. For example, you could put:
"flatclassroomproject.ning.com - a global collaborative project founded by Vicki Davis (Westwood Schools, USA) and Julie Lindsay (Qatar Academy, Qatar) in 2006 to use Web 2.0 tools to facilitate communication, interaction and collaboration between students and teachers from all participating classrooms."
5. Email me at steve@hargadon.com if your network isn't ad-free within 24 hours (except on weekends!). We're not sure what the demand, and therefore the turn-around time, will be, but if your ads aren't gone in 24 hours, I'll check on it for you.
6. Join the [Ning in Education community](#) to get help, hint, and tips for using Ning in educational settings
7. Consider thanking Ning by placing a Ning in Education badge on your frontpage by following the link on the right side of that network that says "[Get a Ning in Education Badge!](#)" You can then add the HTML code into a text box on your network."

1.

This is great! It was great to see that this was so much more than just our project. It is the project of all educators.

Risk Taking and Education

Many wonder [why we'd want to use social networks in class anyway](#).

[Subscribe Free](#)
[Add to my Page](#)

My Presentations

What my students are doing

westwood wiki

[2008 2009 CF Notes](#) 29 Oct
[2008 2009 CF Notes](#) 24 Oct

[wikispaces](#)

[I Power Blogger](#)

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About Me

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It is imperative we make this happen. Imperative.

 Sink Reflections

Let me ask, how will your students compete with mine who have collaborated globally in multiple projects before they are even a junior in high school. How will they compete with the students in Qatar, China, Australia....

But I am a win win person, it is more important to me that we can ALL compete and communicate effectively. Because then we can overcome the hurdles and create true win win scenarios rather than win-lose scenarios built on short term thinking and cultural misunderstandings.

Businesses need to stop griping about educators not taking a risk on their product and take the risk themselves, by making ad free sites available for educators. Doing something new is enough risk for most teachers.

Let's grow this Web 2.0 education baby up!

And let's move past our trite self containing word "Web 2.0" and advocate what we really need:

Global literacy and global connectedness that bridges digital divides, cultural divides, and occupational divides. Let's change things by connecting our kids. Let's change things by connecting ourselves. Let's be a bionic, computer enabled people who can jump across the world and back at the speed of light.

Let's overcome and move forward.

No Whining! Productive Criticism!

Don't just whine and complain about things you don't like! Speak out in meaningful, well thought out ways about what you'd like to see happen. This is not the first time this has happened.... other companies like [VoiceThread](#), [Elluminate](#), [TechSmith](#), [Evoca](#), [Airset](#), [Crick](#), [CDW-G](#), and [Wikispaces](#) (just off the top of my head.)

All of these are companies who I know of who have listened actively to educators. No company is perfect but if you want to make money in education, you should listen to the educators who buy your services.

Speak up. Speak out. More power to teachers.


Teach students to speak up. **More power to students!** (*For good teachers should not be afraid of empowered students*)

It is all about Web 2.0 and yet it is not even about Web 2.0. It is about moving education forward into the real world, safely, wisely, and effectively.

tag: [Web 2.0](#), [teaching](#), [education](#), [flatclassroom](#), [flat classroom project](#), [Thomas Friedman](#), [Julie Lindsay](#), [Vicki Davis](#), [coolcatteacher](#), [Steve Hargadon](#), [Google](#), [Google adsense](#), [Qatar](#), [advertising](#), [business](#), [innovation](#), [Gina Bianchini](#), [Athena Von Oech](#), [twitter](#), [ustream](#), [mogulus](#), [Diggnation](#), [VoiceThread](#), [Elluminate](#), [TechSmith](#), [Evoca](#), [Airset](#), [Crick](#), [CDW](#), [CDW-G](#), [Wikispaces](#)

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posted by Vicki A. Davis @ 12:45 PM 

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status via twitter

recent comments ([follow comments](#))

[View Profile »](#)

Powered by [Disqus](#) · [Learn more](#)



Marla Cilley (Paperback - Oct...)
\$10.20

This is my favorite book that taught me how to recover my hom...



The Servant: A Simple ...
James C. Hunter (Hardcover ...)
\$14.96

When I was in Leadership Georgia, they gave every one of us this boo...



[Get Widget](#)

[Privacy](#)

Gadgets I own (and love)



Apple iPod nano 4 GB Pi...
Apple Computer
\$199.99

This is what I take with me everywhere! I listen to podcasts w...



iRiver T30 1 GB MP3 PL...
iRiver
\$237.99

I have an earlier generation of this that I use to record everything. My son uses this to record his teachers...



Logitech Quickcam Fu...
Logitech
\$38.99

This is what my students use to film everything in our classroom. It has a camera but comes with soft...



M-Audio Podcast Fact...
M-Audio

I use this in my classroom on our nice podcasting computer. It comes with Ableton Lite and is a great mike. It also has a plug and ...



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 6 Comments

- At [11/01/2007 5:40 PM](#), [Suzie Vesper](#) said...
 I think that everything you say here is so true! The idea of Filter 2.0 where we put ratings on different sites is a powerful one meaning we can still use these wonderful tools but with an acceptable level of risk (because no system will be perfect). In New Zealand, schools can choose themselves which tools can be made widely available on their networks by contacting the filtering companies but many sites like YouTube are still blocked because of the 'mixed bag' content available on them. We are losing so much of the good with the bad! If more sites begin to cater for educational needs then this wouldn't need to happen.
 I have also resisted putting ads on my sites as I don't want to lose the control over the content on my own pages. Keep up the great work as an advocate for educationalists.
- At [11/01/2007 7:12 PM](#), [profv](#) said...
 I think though that this is an example of the fears of those that are new to the Web 2.0. You had the contacts to address this situation. However, those who are new to the situation 1) may not know they have control over this software, 2) have enough trouble trying to figure out the attributes of the software, and 3) may not have control over the use at the local level, where administrators might pull the plug the first time in appropriate use happens. This scares teachers who have a lot of other things to worry about (getting students to reach the standards, finding resources, being aware of the social pressures within and outside of class).
 I noticed you mentioned g-rated often. I don't know why companies have not come out with a rating system which you could choose. This would target the advertising (good business practice) and make sure the content is appropriate thus minimize calls for regulating internet ads (they have different TV advertising laws for children).
 Finally, I was disappointed that the company limited the restrictions to k-12. While I understand the age (advertising to minors) is a problem, the fact is that at the university level we also must follow certain guidelines and standards. I can't require my students to go to a site that may expose them to images and ads that are offensive to them. The key here is requiring students. My students outside of class have the opportunity to avoid those sites and images that are offensive, but if I require them to visit the site as a requirement for their grade, I take that choice away from them. This is why our university has software (i.e. blogging and wikis) that are password protected and gives the teachers control to filter out offensive content (unless they prepare students and give them the option not to visit those sites).
 The dilemma I am faced with as I plan a course on the Web 2.0 for undergraduate business students is how much to control the content. I have had students offended in the past with other content (i.e. when teaching about visuals - having a particularly graphic photo) and realized that I need to give my students the option to opt out. Last semester, one of my students took exception with the free wiki software we were using as it asked for personal information she was not comfortable giving out. I felt she had a valid concern and I had to find an alternative wiki for her.
- At [11/01/2007 9:56 PM](#), [John Pederson](#) said...
 Dear Ning.
 Thanks.
 Never before had I thought "Hmmm, Ning has Google Ads."
 Now I know "Hmm, Ning is Google Ad free for education."
 Good on ya!
- At [11/02/2007 8:03 AM](#), [Downes](#) said...
 I have two (not entirely consistent) views on this matter.
 First, I agree that learning should be advertising free. Not to protect students from specific distasteful ads, but to avoid the merging of advertising and educational content in general, as this impairs a students' ability to evaluate advertising appropriately.
 But second, I am opposed to specific 'education only' types of regimes, where specific conditions (free use, ad free, etc) are allowed for "education". This is because what is commonly understood as "education" is, in fact, educational *institutions*, and not, say, self-directed or informal learning. At the higher levels especially, this amounts to support for types of learning that require that students pay large tuition fees, while doing nothing for the student who cannot afford such fees.
 According, while I believe you took the right action for mostly the right reasons, it will not be a long-term sustainable solution, and should be viewed as a stop-gap.

- At [11/02/2007 2:21 PM](#),  [Heather Ross](#) said...
I'm with profv on this. I work for a college and I'm trying to introduce the use of Ning, but some of our students are under 18. I wish that the good folks at Ning would at least consider offering this to post-secondary instructors and learners.
- At [7/03/2008 8:45 AM](#),  [SeanN](#), said...
Google's "AdSense NonSense":
<http://stjoe2o.ning.com/profiles/blog/show?id=2128468%3ABlogPost%3A1300>

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